

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (New): A video on-demand system, comprising:

a headend adapted to periodically generate a group identifier for broadcast to a group of subscribers associated with the group identifier; and

the headend further adapted to receive a request for video on-demand data including the group identifier and to enable one or more modulators associated with the group of subscribers to distribute the video on-demand data.

Claim 11 (New): The headend of claim 10, further adapted to:

receive as part of the request a subscriber terminal identifier distinct from the unique group identifier; and

assign to the video on-demand data a program slot associated with the one or more modulators and to communicate to the subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of the selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

Claim 12 (New): The headend of claim 10, further adapted to:

periodically generate the group identifier for broadcast to the group of subscribers as part of a program stream.

Claim 13 (New): The headend of claim 12, further adapted to:

periodically generate the group identifier for broadcast to the group of subscribers as part of an MPEG data program stream.

Claim 14 (New): A video on-demand system, comprising:

a video server;

an application server;

the application server adapted to extract a subscriber group identifier received in a request for video on-demand data;

the video server adapted to cooperate with the application server to identify one or more of the modulators associated with the subscriber group identifier and to stream video on-demand data to the modulators in response to the request; and

the video server adapted to periodically communicate the subscriber group identifier to subscriber terminals associated with the group identifier.

Claim 15 (New): The system of claim 14, further comprising:

the application server and video server adapted to cooperate to stream the video on-demand data to subscriber terminals associated with the group identifier, and to enable a particular subscriber terminal that provided the request to view the video on-demand data by informing the particular subscriber terminal of a program slot associated with the video on-demand data.

Claim 16 (New): The system of claim 14, further comprising:

the video server adapted to periodically communicate as part of a program stream the subscriber group identifier to subscriber terminals associated with the group identifier.

Claim 17 (New): The system of claim 14, further comprising:

the video server adapted to periodically communicate as part of an MPEG data program stream the subscriber group identifier to subscriber terminals associated with the group identifier.

Claim 18 (New): A video on-demand delivery method, comprising:

communicating a subscriber group ID to subscriber equipment of a subscriber group, the subscriber group ID distinct from a unique subscriber equipment address, such that the subscriber group ID does not form a part of the unique subscriber equipment address;

receiving a video on-demand data request from particular subscriber equipment of the group, the request including the subscriber group ID;

streaming video on-demand data to at least one modulator associated with the subscriber group ID; and

communicating a program number of the video on-demand data to the particular subscriber equipment to enable the particular subscriber equipment to tune to the video on-demand data.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 18 further comprising:

streaming to the subscriber equipment of the subscriber group a program stream including the subscriber group identifier.

Claim 20 (New): A subscriber terminal device comprising:

means for receiving a program stream including a group identifier, and for tuning to the program stream and extracting the group identifier;

means for including the group identifier in a request for video on-demand data; and

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means for receiving the video on-demand data.

Claim 21 (New): The subscriber terminal of claim 20, further comprising:

means for receiving a program number for the video on-demand data, and for tuning
to a frequency associated with the program number.